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The great merits of the book are clearness and definiteness. It seems an adequate compendium of English statutes and practice on *choses in action*. It is surely a helpful summary of their history and the principles which govern them. In the latter aspect, it has a real value for the American lawyer.

J. P. C. JR.

THE GROWTH OF THE CONSTITUTION IN THE FEDERAL CONVENTION OF 1787. By William M. Meigs. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1900. pp. iv, 374.

It is much to say of a book that it will be an indispensable one to any student of constitutional law, yet this may fairly be said of the book under review. The present volume traces in order the origin and development of each separate clause of the Constitution in the Federal Convention of 1787, from its first suggestion in that body to the form finally approved. Whenever the interpretation of any clause of the Constitution is in question, the development of that clause in the Convention must be considered in any well-advised discussion. Hitherto one was obliged to search out through the indices of Elliot's Debates this development of any particular clause, — pleasant labor always, but in result too often unsatisfactory to one without special learning in the contemporaneous literature of the Constitution. Now any one may find the history of every clause set forth succinctly and accurately in the present volume. The work, as needs be, is almost wholly without originality, but it has for that reason some part of that undying interest which attaches to every motion and every speech in the Federal Convention. However, it is just here that the book fails — in atmosphere. It is too precise, too well arranged. The Constitution grew in the Convention in no such way. Again, fault may be found with the almost entire absence of reference to the originals, and with the failure to grapple with the discrepancies between the Journal of the Convention, the Yates Minutes, and the Madison papers, — but these are conscious and deliberate omissions. And to be quite fair to the author, he has a defined object, and he accomplishes it. Moreover, especial credit is to be given to the appendix; one wonders why these six principal drafts which mark the evolution of the Constitution in the Convention were never collated before.

B. W.

We have also received : —

REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING CHANGES BY INTERPRETATION AND AMENDMENT. By W. G. Bullitt. Cincinnati: The Robert Clark Co. 1899. pp. xii, 360. This manual is described as written for "lawyers and those not learned in the law;" yet it must be confessed that the simple style and strict avoidance of technicality give the book a distinctly popular tone. The people are solemnly warned against an unwarranted assumption of powers by the Executive and Congress, gradual, disguised, but none the less subversive to a republican form of government. The author's conception of the government has a marked southern tone. He finds the sovereignty in the people of the respective States under the Constitution of 1787. He examines that constitution and finds no powers granted to the United States as a whole, — the three departments of the government are the

repositories of the powers and the only agents of the people to manage the affairs of the United States. The government of the United States, he finds, is merely a municipal agent ordained by the people of the States united. The accepted interpretation that each State has contributed an equal share of its power from which to weld a new nation is of course denied. All these are arguments the opponent of State rights cannot overlook. Yet one may doubt if the tone of the book is not too pessimistic, too biased. At all events, such a vigorous polemic on State rights cannot escape criticism in the light of modern ideas.

THE STATUTORY AND CASE LAW APPLICABLE TO PRIVATE CORPORATIONS UNDER THE GENERAL CORPORATION ACT OF NEW JERSEY AND CORPORATION PRECEDENTS. By James B. Dill. Second Edition. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co. 1899. pp. xxx, 364. The State of New Jersey, especially during the last twenty-five years, has by liberal legislation invited the formation of large companies. She has offered opportunities for combination impossible in other States, she has allowed her corporations to hold stock in other corporations, and has thus indirectly affected the policy of other States. Mr. Dill's book, therefore, is of more than local interest. The first edition aimed to give concise information as to the organization and management of private corporations under the laws of New Jersey. The text of the statutes was given with reported cases arranged under appropriate headings. Thirteen hundred and thirty-six corporations were organized in New Jersey between January first and August first of the present year, — many of these formed by lawyers from all parts of the Union. The author, therefore, has added to this second edition as a new feature "carefully selected corporations precedents." This alone should give the book a far reaching value. A digest of the reported corporation cases of New Jersey is also added. Mr. Dill's scheme seems clear and carefully elaborated.

THE CIVIL LIABILITY FOR PERSONAL INJURIES ARISING OUT OF NEGLIGENCE. By Henry F. Buswell. Second Edition, revised and enlarged. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1899. pp. cxxiii, 545. This volume is much the same as the first edition published in 1893. The text has been revised here and there to conform to changes and developments in the law since that time, and a few new sections, many illustrations taken from recent decisions, and some seventeen hundred citations have been added. In being thus brought down to date the practical value of the work is greatly enhanced. The author's aim is to state the principles which create the relations of plaintiff and defendant in actions for personal injuries caused by negligence; to discuss the law of negligence in this regard, and the rules applicable in cases of liability created by statute; and to consider the general rule of liability as modified by the relation between the parties of employer and employee. The statement of the law is clear and accurate, and, as a rule, there is sufficient explanation of the theory of liability to suit the requirements of the student. The elaborate classification of the subjects is well carried out and exhaustive; although there seems to be no good reason for omitting the much discussed topic of liability for injuries resulting from fright or nervous shock negligently caused.